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New Pennsylvania Park Dedicated Today

The dedication of Pennsylvania Avenue's new John Marshall Park was held today, Tuesday, May 10 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Honorable Warren E. Burger, Chief Justice of the United States was the Guest of Honor at the dedication ceremony which began at 12:15 p.m. Washington D.C. Mayor Marion Barry also took part in the ceremony. Presiding at the dedication event was Henry A. Berline Jr., Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation (PADC).

John Marshall Park, located on Pennsylvania Avenue at Fourth Street, N.W. is the third of the five major urban parks to be completed as part of the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation's public improvement plans for the Avenue.

The PADC is a wholly-owned corporation of the Federal Government,

charged with restoring Pennsylvania Avenue between the White House and the Capitol to its role as the Main Street of the Nation.

This is being accomplished through a unique partnership of public and private sectors returning commercial vitality and grandeur to the heart of the Nation's Capitol.

The park has been named in honor of John Marshall, Chief Justice of the United States from 1801 to 1835, who at one time resided at the park's location. Insights into the life of John Marshall have been incorporated into the park through various inscriptions and a replica of the sundial found at his Virginia home.

The park, designed by landscape architect Carol R. Johnson and Associates of Cambridge, Massachusetts, provides lush gardens surrounding the formal axial vista to Old City Hall. Other features of the park include chessboards, fountains, ample seating, and a variety of shrubs and trees. The park also features two life size bronze chess players by sculptor Lloyd Lillie and bronze lily pads set within the fountains by sculptor David Phillips.

Invited guests, and the general public, enjoyed lunch-time festivities at the dedication. Decorated with spring-like yellow and green banners and balloons, festivities at the park featured performances by Howard High School Marching Band, the Federal Jazz Commission, 734: a Barber Shop Quartet, and the Town Clowns.

Other activities included the presentation of colors by the United States Marine Corps Color Guard and the United States Navy Band.